Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01

SR-02 ORM-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9463

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 3296

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 22, THE 53RD DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3243

- 1. SUMMARY: TAKEO FORCES LINKED-UP WITH A POST ISOLATED EARLIER IN THE WEEK BUT LOST ANOTHER POSITION WHOSE FALL GIVES THE KC ACCESS TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL'S AIRFIELD. NO PROGRESS REPORTED IN RESTORING A ROAD CUT TO A BATTALION ON NEAK LUONG'S EASTERN PERIMETER. PRESSURE CONTINUES HEAVY AT THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. SIXTEEN ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG WOUNDING NINE PEOPLE. FIVE ROUNDS EXPLODED IN THE NORTHERN RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE CAPITAL WOUNDING FIVE. END SUMMARY.
- 2. SIX FRIENDLY COMPANIES CLEARED THE KC FROM AROUND A POSITION ON THE TAKEO PERIMETER ISOLATED EARLIER IN THE WEEK. ANOTHER COMPANY-SIZED POSITION RETREATED LATE FEBRUARY 21, PUTTING THE KC IN RANGE OF TAKEO'S AIRFIELD. PROVINCE FORCES MOVED TO RETAKE THE POST EARLY THIS MORNING.

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3. MORE EXACT INFORMATION ON THE KC ATTACK ON A REFUGEE

CAMP ACROSS THE RIVER FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG IS THAT ONLY 50 FAMILIES WERE BURNED OUT. FANK AND SELF-DEFENSE FORCES LOST 8 KILLED; 17 CIVILIANS DIED. THE KC LOST 15 MEN KILLED

- 4. THE TAKEO TASK FORCE ON ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH REPORTS ENCOUNTERING MINES CONSEQUENTLY NO PROGRESS. ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, THE 7TH DIVISION AND NEARBY FIFTH BRIGADE REPORT ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE.
- 5. FORCES FROM NEAK LUONG HAVE NOT YET LINKED UP WITH A BATTALION CUT OFF ON THE TOWN'S EASTERN PERIMETER. GROUND FIRE HIT TWO HELICOPTERS LANDING AT NEAK LUONG SLIGHTLY INJURING A PILOT ON EACH CRAFT AND DOING MINOR DAMAGE.
- 6. PHNOM PENH HAD FIVE PEOPLE INJURED FROM FIVE ROUNDS WHICH EXPLODED IN THE NORTHERN RESIDENTIAL AREA OF THE CAPITAL. SIXTEEN ROUNDS HIT AT POCHENTONG, TWO OF THEM ON THE AIRBASE. THE ROCKETS INJURED NINE PEOPLE. THREE ROCKETS LANDED IN THE TONLE SAP RIVER NEXT TO THE CAPITAL.

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